

# IMPROVEMENT

## Minister Young's Timely Suggestions.

### Growth of Honolulu Demands New Building Laws, New Fire Limits and More Wharves.

Hon. Alexander Young, Minister of the Interior, was interviewed on last Saturday afternoon by an Advertiser reporter, as follows:

Replying to your several questions regarding general improvements for Honolulu, and in particular the extension of the sewerage system to localities of importance outside of the lines taken in by the plans of Mr. Rudolph Herring, prepared for the Government in 1898, as well as all the localities covered by said plans, I have to say that in calling for tenders for the completion of the sewerage of Honolulu the Government is mindful of the need of extension beyond the limits covered by Mr. Herring's plans. We have, by the steamer Coptic, which sailed February 9th for the Mainland, sent forward plans and specifications inviting tenders for labor and materials separately; not only for the completion of the sewerage for Honolulu laid down in Mr. Herring's plans, but also to cover several extensions anticipated for outlying districts and for that made necessary by the remodeling of the streets in Chinatown.

#### Growth of Honolulu.

Honolulu is growing rapidly. Beyond a doubt the submarine cable connecting these islands with the Mainland, and which we will have shortly, will accelerate the increase of population to an enormous extent; so much so, in fact, that I believe there will not be accommodations for such influx of people unless the property owners of Honolulu bestir themselves. Hundreds of men and their families from other lands would gladly spend a part of each year on our sunny shores, if they could do so and keep in touch with the rest of the world meanwhile. The great waterway soon to be constructed across the mainland continent, for the accommodation of the commerce of all nations passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific and vice versa, when completed, will bring such an avalanche of trade and travel to our shores as will astonish even the most sanguine optimist of today regarding Honolulu's future.

The property owner who hangs back in the breaching, like a mule that does not want to go, may have the enjoyment for a little while of thinking that he is "backing the game"; but finally he will find out that he cuts no figure in retarding progress. He will be dragged along by others equally determined, who keep their ears forward and never prove flinching in the onward march of public improvement. Vigorous and intelligent improvement clubs may do much to point out what is most needed throughout the city; and it is to be hoped that such may soon be organized in every district of Honolulu, composed of unselfish men, who will keep their courses as much as possible away from politics and centered wholly on public betterment.

#### The Improvements Needed.

What is now wanted in Honolulu seems to me to be united effort on the part of the citizens for improvements on a gigantic scale, carried out on the most approved sanitary principles, bearing in mind that that which is not good is not cheap at any price. Let us therefore have the very best, even though it costs a good deal of money. We need better buildings, wider and better made streets and roads, and more of them, in both city and suburbs, for the present and increasing population and traffic of Honolulu. It will require large sums of money to accomplish this; but no town or city ever retarded judicious expenditures for such public improvements as roads, streets, and sewers.

All tracts in and around Honolulu unfit for human habitation on account of low level, should be improved, converted into parks and planted with suitable trees and shrubs. It has from time to time been pointed out by Mr. Allan Herbert and others, that the stretch of low-lying land extending from Kalaheo to Waikiki on the sea beach, should be ditched properly and converted into a public park.

The poorer people should not be compelled, through their poverty, to make their abode in such unwholesome localities while there is room enough on more elevated lands. As a general thing the healthfulness of a city, taken as a whole, is only equal to the most unhealthy sections of that city, when trouble comes.

Property holders do not lose by spending money for good houses and best kind of sanitation; on the contrary, it is the most direct way to make property a paying investment. Besides, no property owner has any right to let his property become insanitary and a dangerous menace to the health of himself or his fellow-men; such should be an offense punishable by heavy penalties imposed by law.

#### Extend Fire Limits.

The fire limits should and must be extended much beyond the present lines. This extension, together with coming legislation, to regulate the kind of buildings to be allowed on any street, will do much to control the reconstruction of Honolulu, and in the long run benefit property owners and all concerned.

Coming events are today casting their shadows before them; and it is safe to predict, though Honolulu has at present only a population of less than 50,000 inhabitants, that the population in 1905 will be close to 100,000 and that in 1910 not less than 150,000 people will be domiciled within and around the city of Honolulu.

Honolulu harbor, that at one time seemed such a tremendous expanse of water that it would never be half used

by the craft from time to time occupying it, is now so completely congested that there is great difficulty in finding wharves for vessels to discharge their freight at, and scarcely room to lie in the harbor.

#### The Harbor Question.

Should commerce keep on increasing as it has done in the last few years, harbor accommodations will have to be quadrupled within the next ten years. There will be no difficulty in doing this, if the ways and means are forthcoming; and if the leading men of the city will look ahead and plan for extensions before we are utterly snowed under by the inevitable increase of commerce.

A dry dock also, which cannot be constructed in a few months, should be commenced at once. This should be of the most modern type and large enough to take the largest vessels afloat. This dock may be built by private enterprise or it may be a public undertaking; but the fact that it will be required in the near future stares us in the face and demands immediate attention.

All improvements in future should be of a substantial nature, wooden bridges occupying but half the width of the street should be replaced by stone or steel and made the full width of the streets, and the same policy should be carried out in all classes of improvements.

#### COAXING RAIN.

### Interesting Experiments With Sulphuric Acid and Zinc.

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 27.—Some of the fruit-growers and grain-raisers of the section of the country between this city and the Mexican line have become fearful that there is not going to be a sufficient amount of rain to save their crops and they are now endeavoring to coax the moisture out of the clouds. The last rain which visited this county, although assuming the proportions of a cloudburst in some parts of the back county, treated the Otay section very shabbily. The precipitation was not even half an inch there, while in the Escondido section more than five inches fell.

As the days and weeks went by and no more rain came, the crops all the while getting drier and drier, the residents despaired of having anything to show at the end of the season for their labor and toil, and thought that the third successive dry year was upon them. The crops planted in the red soil are still in excellent condition, but those in the dark soil are suffering considerably and unless given encouragement soon they will be beyond all hope.

With this condition staring the ranchers in the face one of their number suggested that experiments be carried on to produce the much coveted rain. The proposition was received favorably, the ranchers realizing that no harm could result therefrom and that perhaps it would be the means of their salvation. The method used by the Rock Island road in Kansas, which produced rain 130 times out of 200 experiments, was decided upon.

The money was raised by subscription for purchasing the necessary material. The experiment was commenced yesterday afternoon and it is to be kept up seventy-two hours unless the showers sought for arrive with less coaxing.

Two hundred pounds of sulphuric acid were purchased and 100 pounds of zinc. The chemical action of the acid on the zinc liberates immense quantities of hydrogen. Being much lighter than air, it ascends quickly to the clouds and by producing commotion there is expected to cause the precipitation which the thirsty earth needs. A thorough test is to be made and it is hoped that the section will be one of the ones to reap benefit from the scheme of rainmaking.

#### GENERAL MERCIER DEFEATED

### Famous Enemy of Captain Dreyfus is Turned Down.

PARIS, Jan. 28.—General Mercier received an unexpected rebuff yesterday when the old students of the Ecole Polytechnique, which furnish a majority of the artillery and engineer officers of the army, met in the school theater to elect a president.

Amid great excitement the ballot was taken, the result showing only 200 votes for General Mercier against 1,000 for his adversary. Uproar and a free fight followed, General Mercier's partisans declaring that the ballot had been falsified. Tables and chairs were overturned and General Boissonnet, who presided, was hustled.

Eventually order was restored and a recount confirmed the defeat of Mercier.

#### The Unswept Trams.

A gentleman who made complete round trips on the trams yesterday to see if they were swept or dusted at the terminals reports that nothing of the sort was done. The driver sat while waiting and left his car to shift for itself. Astonished to find that Mr. Pain's orders were being violated in this way the gentleman asked the Advertiser to bring the fact to the manager's attention. He says further that he does not believe that the trams have been well swept since they resumed their service.

#### FOR THE BABIES.

There is no better medicine for the babies than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Its pleasant taste and prompt and effectual cures make it a favorite with mothers and small children. It quickly cures their coughs and colds, preventing pneumonia or other serious consequences. It also cures croup and has been used in tens of thousands of cases without a single failure so far as we have been able to learn. It not only cures croup, but when given as soon as the croupy cough appears will prevent the attack. In cases of whooping cough it liquefies the tough mucus, making it easier to expectorate, and lessens the severity and frequency of the paroxysms of coughing, thus depriving that disease of all dangerous consequences. For sale by all druggists and dealers; Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for H. I.

# SUGAR MARKET

## With Steady and Firm Upward Tone.

### The Opposition to Reciprocity Treaties—The Future of Domestic Sugar.

The following is the sugar summary for February 10th, inclusive, furnished through the courtesy of Messrs. F. A. Schaefer & Co. and clipped from the latest circular of Messrs. Willett & Gray:

Sugar—No changes in the local market nor for export to Honolulu since January 24th.

Basis—Advanced Jan. 26, spot sale, 900 tons, at 4 7-16c, since which no sales reported, making net basis for Island sugar in New York Jan. 31, 4 7-16c; San Francisco, 4 1-16c.

Dry Granulated—Unchanged until January 29; advanced to 5.05c, making net price 5c.

London Beets—Jan. 24-26, 9s 7 1/2d; 27th, 9s 8 1/2d; 29th, 9s 7 1/2d; 30th, 9s 9 1/2d; 31st, 9s 9d.

Eastern and Foreign Markets—Latest mail advices, under date of New York, Jan. 27, report the market steady and firm. Cane sugar will probably continue to be scarce, as Cuba and West Indies are reported to be holding off, in hope of reduced duties, as recommended by the President. It is reported that the receipts of Java sugar for the next six months will be about 125,000 tons less than for the same time last year.

London Cable—Advices report steady market for beet sugar at unchanged prices, and locally the market shows a strong undertone. Offerings continue moderate, as importers generally are indifferent sellers. London cable Jan. 27, quoted Java No. 15 D. S. 11s 3d; fair refining, 10s 6d; February beets, 9s 3/4d, against 9s 7/2 same date last year.

Statistical Position—According to Willett & Gray, total stock in all hands United States, four ports, estimated Jan. 24th, 175,819 tons, against 121,731 last year; total stock in Cuba, six principal ports, 17,800 tons, against 13,492 last year; total stock in all principal countries at latest uneven dates by cable Jan. 25th, 1,470,619 tons, against 1,433,441 tons; excess over last year, 37,178 tons.

The Australia arrived at 1 a. m., Jan. 31, and was ordered into quarantine for inspection, and up to the present writing we cannot learn that the passengers have been landed; neither have we yet received any mail by this steamer, but we understand that she had no sickness on board, and in all probability the passengers will be landed this forenoon, and undoubtedly the cargo will be delivered after the vessel has been thoroughly fumigated.

#### Willett & Gray.

Raw—The receipts for the week were rather increased, but that has not checked in any manner the strength of the raw sugar market. The quantity for sale was not large, and was readily taken at the basis of 4 1/2c per pound for 96 degree test for centrifugals, including Javas at 12s 3d c. i. f., equal to 4 1/2c duty paid. Muscovados were nominally quoted last week at 3 15-16c, and have since been sold within a very small fraction of that price. Larger amounts could have been sold if offered, but the available sugars for sale are limited at the moment outside of European production. Europe appears to be now looking to America for the probabilities of the future markets. As far as we can see, there is little reason to expect any return of the lower basis of prices recently prevailing, even for several months to come. A steadily improving tendency is now likely for the next two months, and if then a reaction occurs, as frequently happens during the spring season, prices are not likely to recede below the present basis.

Referring to our remarks last week regarding the bubonic plague in the sugar producing countries of Australia, Philippine Islands, Hawaiian Islands and Brazil, it is now reported that the plague has broken out at Rosario, Argentine Republic.

Hawaiian Exports—The exports of sugar from the Hawaiian Islands were 1,068 tons for week ending December 30th, and 1,979 tons for week ending January 5th.

#### Opposition to Reciprocity.

The reciprocity treaties negotiated by the President and now requiring the approval of Congress before becoming effective, provide for reduction in duty of 20 per cent on sugar from Argentine Republic and 12 1/2 per cent on British West Indies sugars. The President recommends that Cuba sugar be admitted at the same reduction as may be granted the British West Indies sugar, and that the sugar and other products of Puerto Rico be placed on the free list. The home producers of sugars are fighting all these propositions, hoping to defeat any action which will make any change in the policy of protection, and, while not fearing much competition from the limited production of Puerto Rico, they object to the precedent of admitting free the sugars from that small island, having in view the probability of the attempt later on to admit Cuba sugar free. One of the Senators from Connecticut, where tobacco is produced, proposes a reduction of 20 per cent in duties on the products of Puerto Rico instead of free entry. The supporters of the President believe that free trade will be granted Puerto Rico at this session of Congress after a long fight.

The sugar men are supported by producers of tobacco, wool, fruits, etc., in their opposition to the reciprocity treaties, especially to the Argentine treaty, which affects the wool interests, and, from present indications, that treaty is in danger of rejection, while the others, although less vigorously opposed, have not a clear road to ratification, and the tendency is to delay action on them.



A FIELD BAKERY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Providing Tommy Atkins with his daily bread is one of the problems that English officers have to face in South Africa. It is no easy matter to do this when the thousands of soldiers are good distances from the base of supplies. The illustration shows how it is done. The commissariat department carries a sufficient number of oblong steel ovens. When a position is taken the ovens are placed in a row upon the ground. A trench is dug in front of the row and hot coals are heaped upon the ovens, inside of which the loafed bread pans are placed. The bread is not always light and fine but it is wholesome and the soldier boys like it.

#### Future of Domestic Sugar.

The activity displayed in the extensive promotion of the beet sugar industry in the United States calls for more than passing notice. Reorganizations of existing corporations are being made and the stocks being dealt in on the street in anticipation of regular listing on the exchanges later on. It is perhaps well to call attention to the changing sentiment in favor of the safety of beet sugar investments by capitalists. It has been thought that the acquisition of Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines would count against this industry, but it now begins to be more evident from the progress of the discussion on the confirmation of the treaty that it will be many years yet before sugars are admitted free of duty from these countries, except as to Puerto Rico. Even if the duties were removed from sugar imported from Cuba and the Philippines, still it must be expected that export duties or production taxes on sugar would need to be assessed in those islands to pay the expenses of the local government. This would enhance the cost and prove to be some protection, at least, to the sugar produced at home. In the meantime the progress of the home sugar industries will cause them to become an important factor in all tariff legislation.

#### Europe Sensitive.

Europe is quick to respond to any improvement and demand from this side of the water, and our refiners have

been good customers the past few weeks, paying a very liberal advance for beet sugars. The total advance is not fully maintained, and with the opening of the rivers from ice in the interior of the continent, larger receipts at the seaboard may cause a freer movement and more desire to realize for a time at least. The temperature in Germany has lately moderated considerably. Our refiners are, however, likely to be steady buyers of beet sugars in the absence of any surplus of cane sugars available from the usual sources. Cuba hardly enters into the question thus far. While very considerable transfers of new crop sugars have been made to speculators, or otherwise, still the producers have hopes of more favorable arrangements regarding duties than those now in force and are disposed to wait events now transpiring in our Congress in this direction. This applies to Puerto Rico and British West Indies sugar, also. The delay in shipments of these cane sugars will also be felt in a continued demand in Europe from this country, particularly as the receipts of Java sugars for the next six months will be about 125,000 tons less than for the same time last year. The immediate future points to continued steadiness.

The Chinese Consul, Mr. Young Wei Pin, has received through the Board of Health \$191, amount donated by the Wailua Relief Organization, which has been given to the United Chinese Society for distribution among those who have suffered by reason of the plague.

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